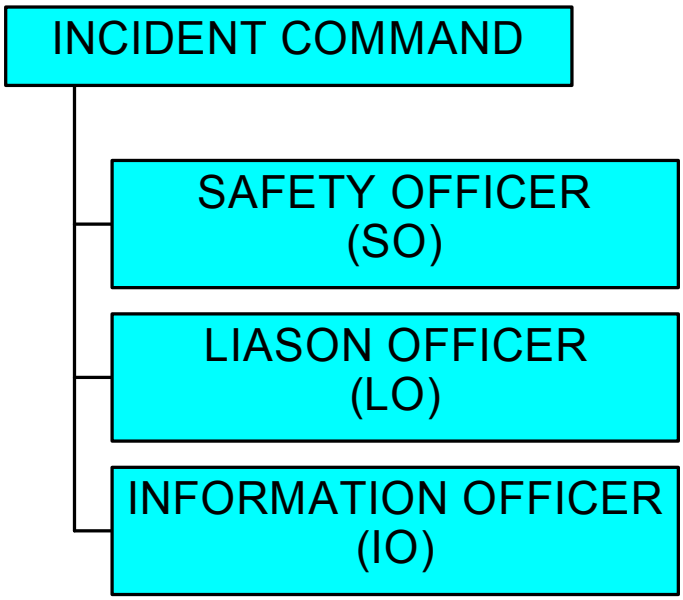
8200 COMMAND 2

8210 Command Structure: Unified Command 3

8210.1 Incident Command (IC) 4
8210.2 Health & Safety Officer (SO) 4
8210.3 Liason Officer (LO) 4
8210.4 Information Officer (IO) 4

8230 Response Policy and the Incident Command System 5

8200 COMMAND



The Incident Command System (ICS) is used by response agencies in the Area Of Responsibility (AOR) of Captain of the Port (COTP) San Francisco Bay. Personnel assignments will vary based on the needs of the incident. *Be advised that the organization charts displayed throughout this publication may not exactly match those in the Incident Handbook. (IMH) They are more tailored to the MSO. The IMH provides the initial guidance for Incident Command System. Depending on the situation, the ICS will form around the Incident as needed.*

Shipboard fires that escalate beyond the firefighting capabilities of the vessel's crew usually become multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional incidents. Events of this type and magnitude are best handled using Unified Command. The COTP, the plant's fire brigade, the local public agency's fire department, and/or the vessel's crew all have a vested interest in the control and extinguishment of the fire.

Unified Command is flexible enough to expand sufficiently to accommodate the needs of an incident involving any one of the following scenarios:

- A fire occurs aboard a foreign flag vessel carrying crude petroleum during transfer operations while it is tied up at an oil refinery dock.

- A vessel loading bulk grain products experiences a fire in the engine room, which threatens to extend to the dock and loading facility, owned by the port authority. Any movement of the vessel will have a great impact on this incident.

- Following a collision in the Carquinez Straits between a crude carrying tank vessel and a tug/barge tow, both a spill (crude oil from the tanker) and fire (finished light end hydrocarbons aboard the barge in tow) occur simultaneously. Access to barge requires that fire agency responders enter the spill area in the process of being boomed by oil spill co-op responders.

All members of the Command, Operations and Planning Sections should be thoroughly familiar with:

- Resource Guide section 8800

1. Pre approved Grounding sites
2. Piers for Fire Fighting
3. Shore Side Emergency Resource Loading Sites

8210 Command Structure: Unified Command

A Unified Command with a designated lead agency is usually the most efficient command structure for incidents of the type discussed in Section 2000. As incidents evolve, changes in lead agency may occur depending on the needs of the response. Examples include:

- ***An underway vessel with a major fire onboard enters San Francisco Bay.*** *Response personnel decide that the fire can best be controlled at pier side. While the vessel is underway the lead agency within the Unified Command Structure is the COTP. Once at pier side, the lead may shift (with concurrence of those involved) to the fire department with jurisdiction.*
- ***A vessel at pier side is involved in a major fire.*** *With COTP approval, it is towed and eventually anchored in the Bay. Initially, the lead agency will be the local fire department. Once the vessel is underway, the lead shifts (with mutual concurrence) to the COTP.*

8210.1 Incident Command (IC)

The Incident Command (IC) is responsible for the overall management of the incident. The IC directs incident activities including the development and implementation of strategic decisions and approves the ordering and releasing of resources. The IC may also assign Deputy ICs to assist in carrying out IC responsibilities.

- Review Common Responsibilities as per organizational guidance such as *USCG Incident Management Handbook COMDTPUB P3120.17*

8210.2 Health & Safety Officer (SO)

The Health & Safety Officer is responsible for identifying and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures for assuring personnel safety. The Health & Safety Officer will correct unsafe acts or conditions through the regular line of authority, although the Officer may exercise emergency authority to stop or prevent unsafe acts when immediate action is required. The Health & Safety Officer maintains awareness of active and developing situations, ensures the preparation and implementation of the Site Safety Plan, and includes safety messages in each Incident Action Plan. The Health & Safety Officer may have assistants as necessary, and the assistants may also represent assisting agencies or jurisdictions.

- Review Common Responsibilities as per organizational guidance such as *USCG Incident Management Handbook COMDTPUB P3120.17*

8210.3 Liason Officer (LO)

For incidents that are multi-jurisdiction, or have several agencies involved, a Liaison Officer position may be established on the Command Staff. The Liaison Officer responsibilities include:

- Review Common Responsibilities as per organizational guidance such as *USCG Incident Management Handbook COMDTPUB P3120.17*

8210.4 Information Officer (IO)

The Information Officer is responsible for developing and releasing information about the incident to the news media, to incident personnel, and to other agencies and organizations as appropriate. Only one Information Officer will be assigned to the incident. The Information Officer may have assistants as necessary, and the assistants may also represent assisting agencies or jurisdictions.

- Review Common Responsibilities as per organizational guidance such as *USCG Incident Management Handbook COMDTPUB P3120.17*

Normally, the COTP and the MSO Public Affairs Officer will handle all public information activities. This is particularly true concerning the preparation and release of news releases or official statements, and the coordination of public affairs activities with other involved agencies. However, during the course of a major fire, it may become necessary to establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) for coordinated news releases among participating agencies. If this should occur, additional public affairs support will be sought from the Eleventh Coast Guard District Public Affairs staff. This additional support will allow for staffing of an information center and direct support and assistance to the COTP at the Command Post.

8230 Response Policy and the Incident Command System

The Incident Command System (ICS) structure allows for a coordinated response effort, which takes into account the federal, state, local concerns and interests when implementing the response and recovery strategy.

The size and the complexity of ICS will be proportionate to the size of the response warranted. For relatively few injuries and minimal damage, the incident command could total 3-4 members. The preliminary assessment, triage, and recovery phases of the response could be executed by an IC of this size.